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Programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017

General and complete disarmament: taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations

Taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.1/71/L.41

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

I. Introduction

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/71/12) in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.1/71/L.41 on taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations. During its consideration of the statement, the Advisory Committee met representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification, concluding with responses received on 28 November 2016.

2. Under the terms of draft resolution A/C.1/71/L.41, the General Assembly would:

(a) Decide to convene a United Nations conference in 2017 to negotiate a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination;

(b) Decide that the conference shall convene in New York, under the rules of procedure of the Assembly unless otherwise agreed by the conference, from 27 to 31 March and from 15 June to 7 July 2017, with the participation and contribution of international organizations and civil society representatives;

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(c) Decide that the conference will hold a one-day organizational session in New York as soon as possible;

(d) Decide that the conference shall submit a report on its progress to the Assembly at its seventy-second session, which will assess the progress made in the negotiations and decide the way forward;

(e) Request the Secretary-General to provide the support necessary to convene the conference and to transmit the report of the conference to the Conference on Disarmament and the Disarmament Commission and to the United Nations high-level international conference on nuclear disarmament foreseen in paragraph 6 of resolution 68/32.

II. Resource requirements

3. The Secretary-General indicates that the request would entail additional resource requirements in the amount of $692,600 for the following activities:

(a) Meetings services in the amount of $252,000 (see A/C.1/71/L.41, operative paragraphs 8, 10 and 11), for a total of 42 meetings (21 days) in New York with interpretation in the six official languages, as follows:

(i) A one-day organizational meeting, consisting of 2 meetings, early in 2017;

(ii) A five-day first session, consisting of 10 meetings, from 27 to 31 March 2017;

(iii) A 15-day second session, consisting of 30 meetings, from 15 June to 7 July 2017;

(b) Documentation services in the amount of $440,600 (see A/C.1/71/L.41, operative paragraphs 8, 10, 13 and 14), consisting of 12 pre-session documents (31,800 words), 18 in-session documents (47,700 words) and 2 post-session documents (21,400 words) in the six official languages.

4. It is indicated in the statement that the requested activities referred to in the draft resolution relate to programme 1, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, and programme 3, Disarmament, of the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2016-2017 (see A/69/6/Rev.1) and section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, and section 4, Disarmament, of the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017 (A/70/6 (Sect. 2) and A/70/6 (Sect. 4), respectively). It is also indicated that, to meet the provisions of the draft resolution, the outputs under subprogramme 2 of section 4, Disarmament, of the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017 would need to be amended in respect of the information and outreach activities during the implementation of the budget (see A/C.5/71/12, para. 7).

5. It is indicated that additional conference-servicing resources in the amount of $692,600 under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, would be required under the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017 to implement the additional workload. It is also

indicated that it is not possible to identify activities within the relevant sections of the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017 that could be terminated, deferred, curtailed or modified during the biennium and it would therefore be necessary for the requested resources to be provided through an additional appropriation, representing a charge against the contingency fund (see A/C.5/71/12, paras. 9 and 11).

III. Conclusion

6. **Taking into account paragraph 5 above, the Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that, should the Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.1/71/L.41, an additional appropriation of $692,600 would be required under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, of the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017, representing a charge against the contingency fund.**